



# Tactical Talk

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**Here's a Clue**

**If someone wants to take away from you your right to be armed, they want to do something to you that they cannot do to you so long as you are armed. This is true whether that person is a criminal, a terrorist or a politician.**

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## Class Demographics

I am sometimes asked just who is it that takes our handgun/self defense courses at Rangemaster. We finished up a basic class a few days ago, and it was completely representative of the students we see day in and day out.

There were 19 students in this course. Ten were male, and nine female. That's 47% female participation. That is slightly higher than our long term average of 43% female students.

The median age of the students was 49. The youngest was 25, the oldest was 72. Two students were in their 30's, six in their 40's, and six were in their 50's.

As a class, the average written test score was 95.3%, and the average range shooting test score was 99.05%. By gender:

- ◆ Males- written average = 94.9% range score = 99.6%
- ◆ Females- written average=95.7% range score = 98.4%.

As you can see, there was a negligible difference either academically or in shooting skill between the genders.

Finally, here are the occupations of the students in this class:

- ◆ Doctor, nurse, or other medical professional- 4
- ◆ Sales, marketing- 1
- ◆ Management- 2
- ◆ Technical, skilled- 5
- ◆ Retired- 2
- ◆ Other assorted- 5.

Thus, the "average" or "typical" student has almost a 50/50 chance of being male or female, is in his/her forties, and has a white collar job. They are typically concerned citizens who want to be able to protect themselves and their loved ones.

**About 40% of our basic handgun class students are female.**



# The Second Crime Scene

In certain types of violent crime it is not uncommon for the Bad Guy to remove the victim from one place to another, usually at gunpoint. Typically, the victim is accosted in a relatively public place, like a shopping mall parking lot, and is then forced to go to a more remote and more private location. That second location is called "the second crime scene" and is usually a pretty gruesome sight.

Unlike in much of the world, abductions in the US are rarely ransom kidnaps but rather are forays to obtain rape/torture/murder victims. The Bad Guy selected the second crime scene specifically because it is remote, or private, and will conceal his activity over a period of time. In business hold-ups, victims are often removed from the front of the store to a back stock-room or restroom, where they can be raped and murdered out of sight. You must not let the violent criminal remove all your options! Once you are face down on the stock-room floor, or tied hand and foot, there is little you can do. You must act before things reach that point.



Recently in Georgia, an armed citizen was able to turn the tables on someone who was almost certainly going to kill the citizen and a store clerk. Here is part of the story from a local news source:

***"Officials say the suspect walked into the store waving a gun in the air and forced a cashier and Ellis (armed citizen) at gunpoint towards a break room. At that point, Ellis pulled out a concealed weapon and shot the suspect once in the chest."***

***"He escorted a customer who was trying to leave the store and a cashier toward a break room. The cashier went in first and the customer went in behind her, and the individual had the gun on the customer and the customer had a pistol concealed in a holster," Dallas County Sheriff Harris Huffman said. "And when the customer got to the door, he turned around and shot the individual."***

Of course, this was ruled a justifiable shooting. When you are being herded into a second crime scene at gunpoint, you are reasonably in fear for your life, and the time to act is NOW.

So, make up your mind now, that:

I will NOT get on the floor.

I will NOT get on my knees.

I will NOT go to the stock-room.

I will NOT be tied up.

I will NOT get in the trunk of the car.

If you brandish a weapon and order me to do ANY of those things, you have declared total all-out war. You had better be ready for the consequences.



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## The Downside of Mobile Devices

*by Craig Harper, Rangemaster Instructor*

New technologies change our lives. The advances in mobile device technology have had a huge impact. Cell/smart phones and tablet computers have brought us instant communication along with access to vast amounts of information on demand. It's all at our fingertips; and these days, our location hardly matters, as network coverage is nearly universal.

As wonderful as these devices are, there is a downside. ALL new technologies bring with them unintended consequences; there were no motor vehicle deaths until the automobile was invented. Mobile devices have brought about two major unintended consequences: diverted attention and a spike in crime.

Traffic experts have predicted about 30,000 highway deaths in 2014. The same forecasts have predicted another 2.4 million will be seriously injured and/or disabled. These estimates prove reliable year after year. It is further estimated that drivers distracted by their mobile devices will cause roughly 25% of all car accidents during 2014. By my count, that's 7,500 deaths and 600,000 injuries.

What is not known with great certainty is the number of people who were victims of a mobile device induced crime. The local newspaper has near daily stories about robbery victims who had their mobile phone stolen. The city of San Francisco reported that 50% of the robberies were related to mobile devices. And a study by Drexel University and the Department of Justice reports EVERY victim of a robbery over the last couple of years had a mobile device of some kind. I doubt that the target of every robbery was a mobile device; more likely the person was targeted and they happened to have a mobile of some kind. None-the-less, there is no doubt that mobile device induced crime is skyrocketing. There is a huge black market for stolen mobile devices as thugs either reactivate a stolen device or sell it to a third-party.

We have to think tactically about our mobile device use. Strolling down the street while texting, emailing, or talking is like walking along with \$400 in your hand and waving it around. You might as well hang a sign around your neck that says, "Mug Me!" The phone peeking out of a back pocket of pants or jeans makes a person an easily identifiable target.

In addition to making yourself a robbery target by prominently displaying your mobile device, if you are engaged in some mobile activity, your attention is diverted. In other words, you are likely in Condition White, not Condition Yellow as you should be.

So, what to do?

The vehicle-mobile device problem is simple: don't do it. Don't text or talk while driving.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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In-vehicle uses of mobile devices puts an extra burden on drivers even if they are not personally engaged in any mobile activity. All the other folks on the road who are texting or talking are a hazard to us. It's just another reason we need to stay alert while driving.

When not in use, keep mobile devices out of sight. Put it in your purse, in a carrier that is covered by some other clothing or a pocket where it doesn't show. While thugs can assume that everybody has a mobile of some kind, they are probably more likely to select a victim that they *know* has one. Keeping your device out of sight helps.

If you're using your mobile outside of your home, you must pay attention to your surroundings. Don't become so involved in whatever you're doing that you drop your guard. Keep your use as short as possible then tuck the device away again.

Save the casual conversations or messaging for another time, a time when you are less likely to be in an area that might have thugs lurking and get you selected as a possible crime victim. There is no law that says a text message must be instantly answered, particularly if in doing so, you are endangered.

As technology changes, we embrace it. At the same time, we have to adapt to the dangers that come with it. There was no need for automobile seat belts...until there were automobiles.



## NSSF Target Shooting Activity Report: States Benefit from Economic Impact of Target Shooting

LAS VEGAS, Nev. -- The National Shooting Sports Foundation has released a major new report documenting the importance of target-shooting activities to the U.S. economy.

The report, [\*Target Shooting in America: Millions of Shooters, Billions of Dollars\*](#), was released today in conjunction with a press conference at the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show (SHOT Show), the largest trade show of its kind in the world and a showcase for the firearms and ammunition industry.

NSSF, which owns the SHOT Show, is the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry.

The report provides a first-ever look at U.S. target shooting-related expenditures. Also included are state-by-state statistics for the number of target shooters, retail sales, taxes and jobs. The target-shooting report complements the *Hunting in America* report released by NSSF and the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies in March 2013.

The money target shooters spent in 2011 resulted in \$23 billion being added to the nation's economy and supported more than 185,000 jobs nationally.

"More people target shooting is good news for the industry, and it is equally good news for America's economy," said NSSF President and CEO Steve Sanetti.

Retail sales related to target shooting account for nearly \$10 billion, with rifle and handgun shooting being the leading contributors, followed shotgun and muzzleloader shooting. California and Texas are the top two states ranked by retail sales, each topping \$800,000,000.

Combining data from *Target Shooting in America* and *Hunting in America* shows that target shooters and hunters together poured more than \$110 billion into the nation's economy, fueling more than 866,000 jobs. "Communities and businesses of all sizes benefit from these activities," said Sanetti.

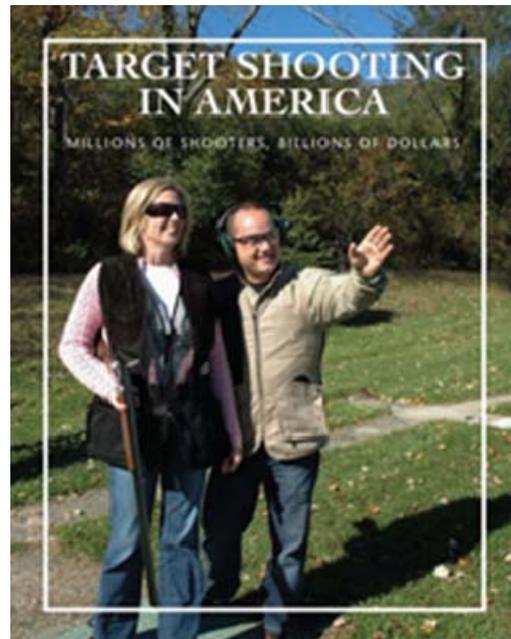
Target shooters (\$8.2 billion) and hunters (\$8.4 billion) spend near equal amounts on equipment common to both pursuits, such as firearms, ammunition and accessories. Hunters spend more overall than target shooters when factors such as fuel, food, lodging and transportation are included.

"The *Target Shooting in America* and *Hunting in America* reports give us a more complete understanding of the economic importance of the shooting sports in America," said Sanetti. "We've long known about the recreational benefits of these activities, and now we know how much they contribute to our country's financial well-being."

To request hard copies of the report, email [Jim Curcuruto](mailto:Jim.Curcuruto) (limited quantity available).

### About NSSF

*The National Shooting Sports Foundation is the trade association for the firearms industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership of more than 10,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, sportsmen's organizations and publishers. For more information, log on to [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org).*



## 2014 EVENT CALENDAR

- Mar 20-23** A Girl and a Gun Conference, Waco, TX
- Mar 29-30** Advanced Pistol Skills (1 day)/Defensive Shotgun (1 day) Florence, SC
- April 5-6** Combative Pistol 1 Athens, GA
- April 12-13** Combative Pistol 1, KR Training, near Austin, TX
- April 26-27** Advanced Pistol Skills and Defensive Shotgun (1 day each)  
Ft Meade, Florida
- May 17-18** Advanced Pistol Skills and Defensive Shotgun (1 day each)  
Culpeper, Virginia
- May 31-June 1** Advanced Instructor Course at Rangemaster, Memphis
- June 6-8** Firearms Instructor Development West Elkton, Ohio
- June 28-29** Advanced Pistol Skills, Defensive Shotgun, 1 day each  
Nappanee, Indiana
- July 18-21** Combative Pistol 1/Defensive Shotgun FAS, Seattle, WA
- Aug 1-3** Firearms Instructor Course Memphis, TN (indoors, A/C)
- Aug 29-31** Firearms Instructor Development Ft Lauderdale, FL(indoor)
- Sept 6** One Day Pistol Skills Eustace, TX
- Sept 7** Defensive Shotgun, 1 Day ETRPC, Longview, TX
- Sept 13-14** Combative Pistol 1 Americus, Georgia
- Sept 19-21** Firearms Instructor Development Course Chandler, OK
- Oct 3-5** Firearms Instructor Course DPC Dallas, Texas
- Oct 18-19** Combative Pistol II KR Training Austin, TX
- Nov 1-2** Combative Pistol Wilmington, OH



Lynn and I will be teaching all over the United States in 2014. We hope to see you in a class.



## Range Etiquette (or, How Not to be That Guy!)

***If you have had any formal firearms training, you are familiar with the 4 General Firearms Safety Rules. In addition to those rules, however, there are some established and customary range practices you should be familiar with.***

1. Once you're on the firing line stay there until you are dismissed by the instructor. It is very poor form to walk off the line without permission. The instructor will give you an opportunity to get more ammunition, hydrate, or do whatever you need to do. It is hard enough for the instructor to observe and control everyone on the firing line as it is. Help him by staying in your assigned spot on the firing line until given permission to leave it.
2. Do not handle your firearm off the firing line. The instructor has to focus his attention on the firing line, so he should not have to watch out for people behind him with guns out. Your handgun should not be out of the holster unless you are on the firing line, facing the backstop, and you have permission to do so.
3. Do not dangle your handgun by your side. Unless you are at the ready or on target the gun should remain in the holster. If you blow a shot, don't throw up your hands or drop them by your side with a gun in your hand. Keep the gun under control and again, if you don't want it in your hands put it back in holster.
4. Don't turn around with a gun in your hand and sweep the line, the instructors, or observers. Always holster the gun before walking off the line, picking up any object, or doing anything else not directly involved in firing.
5. On the firing line there should be no casual chatting. Wait until you are off-line to talk about your performance, or anything else with other students. When you are talking you cannot be listening to the instructor's comments, to range commands, or to other important input. An exception would be when you are acting as a coach for another shooter, however, if the primary instructor begins talking you should stop talking and listen to him. You can resume your coaching when the primary instructor is finished.
6. Immediately obey any instruction or command from the instructor. Do what he says first, and you can question it later. There may be circumstances of which you are unaware.
7. Electronic hearing protection is such an asset that it really should be mandatory equipment for a shooting class. With electronic ear muffs, you will pick up tidbits from the instructor you may have missed otherwise, including hearing coaching directed at other students. The same coaching may well apply to you.

If you will follow these guidelines you will be safer, your classmates will be safer, and just as importantly, you and they will derive the maximum benefit from class.

## How Illinois Carry Permits Affect Mid-Southerners

*By Craig Harper, Rangemaster Instructor*

There is a long running connection between Illinois - particularly Chicago - and residents of the Mid-South. Many locals have relatives in the Windy City as a result of the “Great Migrations” to Chicago that took place between 1910 and 1960. Historically, Chicago has been the closest major market to this area therefore local businesses had banking and other ties to the city. Apparently the airlines recognize the connection to the “toddlin’ town” as Chicago is one of the few cities that have direct, non-stop air service from Memphis International Airport.

When the Illinois Carry Permit law went into effect, many local permit holders were excited about it, anticipating that they would finally be permitted to carry their pistol in that state.

Well, not so fast.

Until this year, Illinois was the only state in the US without some form of handgun permit system. On January 1, 2014, Illinois became the last state to establish carry permits for citizens. Like many states “up north” the Illinois permit is highly restrictive and, for non-residents, expensive and time consuming to acquire.

First, Illinois DOES NOT recognize Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas or any other state-issued permit. In order for a non-resident to qualify for an Illinois permit, their home state must have laws substantially the same as those of Illinois. At this time, the only state that meets that standard is Hawaii.

Non-residents may apply for an out-of-state permit but the process is onerous and expensive - \$300 for the permit alone plus the cost of required training, providing a suitable photograph, and other incidental expenses. For full details go here: <https://ccl4illinois.com/ccw/public/home.aspx>

As mentioned earlier, Illinois is highly restrictive as to where you can carry, even with a permit. In addition to state laws, local communities can have (and many do) additional restrictions on possessing and

carrying firearms. Resident and non-resident permit holders are subject to those laws and it's your responsibility to be familiar with all laws. Again, Illinois does not honor other states' permits.

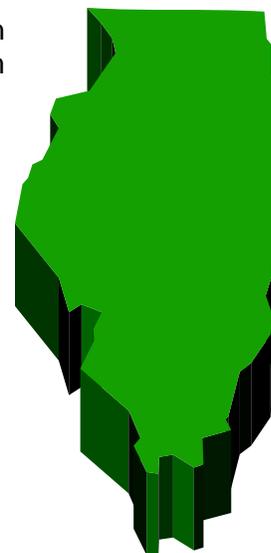
In short, non-residents of Illinois will have to make a real value judgment as to whether to seek a non-resident permit.

However, not all is lost for those who travel through The Prairie State. Out-of-state permit holders driving in Illinois are granted a limited exception to carrying in the state. You may carry your gun on your person – provided you are acting in accordance with your home state laws – as long as you don't get out of your vehicle. Once you leave your vehicle, your firearm must be locked in the vehicle. So plan your gas stops and bathroom breaks carefully!

You may transport a firearm in a vehicle IF the firearm is broken down or otherwise in a non-functional condition (unloaded) AND is not accessible to passengers; locked in a box and stored away.

Illinois does have a “Castle Doctrine” statute and does recognize “no duty to retreat.” However, remember that Illinois has not been a gun friendly state. With that in mind, one might expect that local prosecutors will still pursue those who defend themselves no matter how justified the shooting may be. As of this writing, no cases of legally armed citizens defending themselves have come to court thus allowing us to get a sense of how these cases will be handled. It's quite possible that certain jurisdictions – like Chicago – will be more aggressive in pursuing self-defense cases than jurisdictions in other areas of the state. We just don't know yet.

For Mid-South area permit holders interested in going armed in Illinois, it's a half a loaf situation...or maybe just a slice or two. Better than none, but certainly not up to the freedoms and security we enjoy locally.



# The Parrot Drill, Or Timing is Everything!

by Tom Givens

No matter where I teach in the country, I see shooters making the same marksmanship mistakes over and over. One of the most common errors involves shooting cadence, which is simply the speed at which one is shooting. Most shooters only seem to have one speed, no matter what size target or target distance is presented to them.

The problem with this is that shooting cadence has to be matched to the target size/distance. Too slow, and you fail to stop the problem in time. Too fast, and you miss, which still leaves the target shooting back. Ideally, the combat marksman learns to shoot as quickly as he can guarantee a hit, regardless of target size or distance. The motto for this is: "More target equals less time; less target equals more time." Thus, if a target is only partially exposed, or is at a greater distance, you must slow down to hit it.



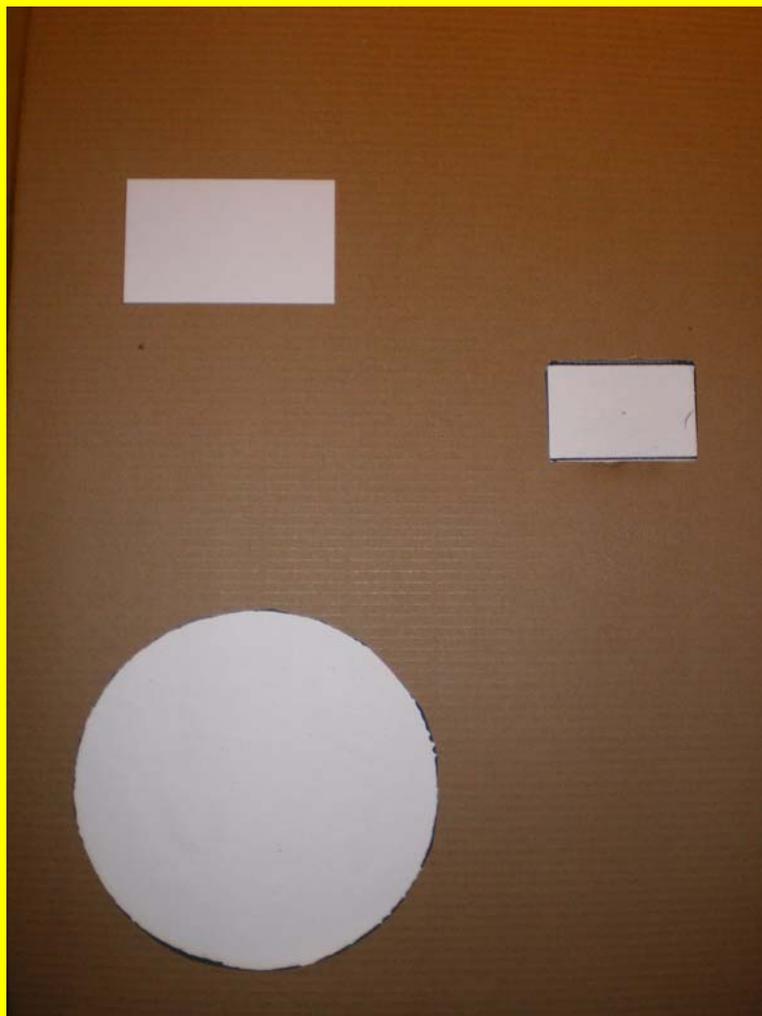
To teach and reinforce this simple, but critical concept, we use "The Parrot Drill". The drill gets its odd name from the mythical pirate with a parrot perched on his shoulder. We use a target such as the IALEFI-Q or the VSRT silhouette, and refer to the aiming circle above the silhouette's shoulder as "the parrot". These silhouette targets also have a vital zone outlined in the upper chest, and a head circle, representing the ocular window. Thus, each target has three distinct aiming points of varying sizes. The chest circle is fairly large, the head circle is smaller, and the aiming dot above the shoulder (the parrot) is even smaller.

For the drill, start facing this target at a distance of 5 yards. You can start from the holster or from the ready. Present the handgun and fire 2 shots at the chest,

*(Continued on page 11)*

*(Continued from page 10)*

2 at the head, and 2 at the dot. In order to actually hit all three areas, you will need three distinctly different shooting cadences: shoot the chest circle quickly, the head circle carefully, and the dot precisely. Your goal is to learn the appropriate cadence for good hits on each target size, and to learn to “shift gears” as needed. Once you are proficient with this drill, mix it up. Shoot the aiming points in different sequences, always striving to keep good hits without wasting time. Shoot as quickly as you can guarantee hits on each different target size. Avoid shooting too slowly on the 8” chest circle—that wastes precious time. Avoid shooting too quickly and missing the head ring or the Parrot—that wastes precious time. I don’t know who said it first, but “You cannot miss fast enough to catch up!”.



You can easily make a target for this drill, as shown in the photo. This is a simple piece of cardboard, with a paper plate, a 3”X5” index card, and a business card, again providing three different target sizes.

**Timing is critical.  
The Parrot Drill is a  
great way to ingrain  
proper shooting  
cadence.**

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## Understanding Magazine Capacity

The detachable magazine is the heart of a semiautomatic weapon, whether handgun or carbine. The magazine is a feeding device which holds the ammunition supply for the weapon ready for use. Most defensive handguns were designed with a specific magazine capacity in mind.

First, let's get our terms straight. The magazine capacity for which the handgun was originally designed and intended to use is its "normal capacity magazine". If one designs a magazine of the same overall dimensions, but that holds less ammunition than the original design, that is a "reduced capacity" magazine. For example, the Glock 17 was designed with a 17 round magazine that fits flush with the bottom of the grip frame. During the ridiculous Clinton magazine capacity restrictions, these same size magazines were limited to 10 rounds. Thus, the 17 round magazine for a Glock 17 is not a "high-capacity magazine" it is a "normal capacity magazine" or a "standard capacity magazine". The 10 round magazine for a Glock 17 is a "reduced capacity" magazine.

It is interesting to note that organizations from the US Department of Justice to the Centers for Disease Control conducted extensive studies after the sunset of the 10 year magazine capacity restrictions. None of those studies found any evidence whatsoever that limiting ammunition capacity had any effect on crime. None. What such limitations do have an effect on is your ability to adequately defend yourself in a life-and-death situation.

**The purpose of higher capacity magazines is not to let you shoot more.** Their purpose is to reduce the likelihood that you will have to take your pistol out of action to reload it during a fight in which a couple of seconds can mean the difference between winning and losing. Once your pistol is empty and it must be reloaded it is out of action and cannot be fired until the reloading process has been completed. Master level competitive shooters, real champions, need somewhere between 1 and 1.5 seconds to reload a semiautomatic pistol, using competition gear. A very skillful shooter working with concealment carry gear will need more like 2 to 2.5 seconds to complete a reload. Persons with less skill and practice will require even more time. In simple terms that means that once your pistol is empty you are out of the fight for some period of seconds until you can get it reloaded. During that time you just might lose the fight.

The amount of time that elapses between shots is referred to as one's "split time". A pretty decent shooter typically has a split time around .25 seconds from shot to shot at close distances. A very good shooter will have splits around .20 seconds. These split times represent the ability to accurately fire four or five shots per second. This means that when firing at combat speed a five shot handgun will only be able to stay in the fight for about one second. A 10 shot pistol gives the shooter two seconds of firing before he has to stop and reload. A 15 shot pistol has three seconds of potential fighting time before it runs out. This is the true purpose of magazines that hold more rounds. Note that there may be more than one attacker; your attacker(s) may be using cover or moving, or both; and that it often takes a fair number of shots to overcome these issues.